pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Balmer Lawree and Company, a Government of India Undertaking, had stopped their production of Bytylated Hydroxy Toulene (BHT) or Dibutyl, Cresol (DBCP); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of Butylated Hydroxy Toulene - BHT (Di Tertiary Butyl Para Cresol - DBPC) has been suspended in view of substantial drop in demand for BHT (DBPC) in India. As per projections, the demand for this product in 1998-99 was supposed to be more than 2000 MT. Against this, the actual demand for this product by potential customers such as IPCL, IOC, HPC, etc. was around 400 MT only. This was unviable volume, even at 100% market share. Therefore, the production was suspended. Drop in demand is attributed to lower sale of the finished products such a Butyl Rubber and LDPE. Further, some of the customers have replaced this product with cheaper substitutes.

Exploitation of Natural Gas detected in Barmer District of Rajasthan

2571. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be plased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge reserves of Natural Gas has been detected recently in Rajasthan's border district of Barmer, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the time by when the process of tapping the reserves would begin;

(c) the details of gas reserves detected during last five years in the country; and

(d) the approximate requirement of natural gas in the country as on date and the actually available.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the years 1993-94 to 1997-98, 24 new finds of free gas have been made, which lead to the accretion of 21.3 84 BCM of free gas.

(d) The current requirement of existing gas consumers is to the extent of 75.76 Million Standard Metric Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), while the current supply is at the level of 61.06 MMSCMD.

ONGC investment in EOR programme

2572. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. plans to invest about Rs. 2,000 crore in its enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) programme for its Bombay High offshore oilfield;

(b) if so, what is the objective expected to be achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. ONGC is yet to identify suitable EOR process for Bombay High field.

Discrimination in Supply

2573. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil corporation fixes the quantity of MS and HSD transferred to its COCO retail outlets only on the basis of temperature @15°C instead of the actual quantity according to the capacity of tankers;

(b) whether the same is also applicable in case of dealers operated retail outlet, and what steps are being taken / proposed to be taken to abolish and discrimination with dealers's owned retail outlets; and

(c) the reasons for this discrimination and the details on dealership commission vide letter No. P20027/8/82 PP dated the 16 May, 1983?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND